

EULOGY  
AT THE FUNERAL MASS  
FOR WILLIAM J. CASEY  
ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
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By Jeane J. Kirkpatrick

"Bill Casey is a controversial man," a liberal journalist said to me last week. "You have to face that."

But, of course, I said, he was a bold committed man in an age rent by controversy.

In Paradise Lost, Dante reserved the lowest rung of hell for those who do not care --- for those who, confronted by great questions, are uninterested; who, faced with great needs, are unmoved; who, offered great opportunities, feel no challenge; who, endowed with freedom and power, make no use of it; the kind of man who, observing a battle between tyrants and those who would be free, remain indifferent.

Bill Casey was no such man. And, he knew it.

In one of his last public speeches, he quoted Theodore Roosevelt:

"Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat."

"A lawyer," Casey once said, "has a ringside seat at the human comedy." But this lawyer was not content to merely observe his times.

"Casey is a real warrior," a CIA colleague told me ... because, one might add, he decided to be.

He had a choice.

Before he was a warrior, Bill Casey was an intellectual, a man of letters, a bibliophile, prodigious reader, researcher, writer, editor.

"During my entire working life," he wrote, "my activities as a lawyer, author, editor have involved the gathering, analysis, and evaluation of information and applying it to practical purposes."

This penchant for gathering, analyzing, and evaluating of information made Bill Casey a superb Director of the Central Intelligence Agency where, insiders understand, his greatest interest and most outstanding contribution was to strengthen the skill and confidence of the CIA's analysts.

The same commitment to gathering, analyzing, and evaluating information led Bill Casey to the conclusion that our violent century is dangerous for Americans, that the stakes are very high, and that we no longer have a comfortable margin for error. These views were the spur to action.

Watching the Soviet Union shoot down KAL-007 on the mere suspicion that it might have been engaged in espionage (as he put it), observing the framing and arrest of Nicholas Daniloff (hostage taking, he called it), Casey concluded that in the Soviet Government, we are dealing with men who have "a fundamentally alien and totally unpalatable value system."

He believed on the basis of vast information collected and reflected on, that the Soviet leadership is "committed to building a military force that could fight and win a nuclear war."

He was deeply concerned with growing U.S. vulnerability to the Soviet's highly accurate mobile missiles which "promise to make deterrence through offensive missiles increasingly uncertain

in the years ahead." He worried about the Soviets long lead in research on high laser particle beam weapons, radio frequency and kinetic energy weapons. He ardently supported SDI against a relentless Soviet propaganda campaign.

He was also concerned, for both human and strategic reasons, about the Soviets' "creeping imperialism" in the Third World.

They had, he said, "unleashed the four horsemen of the Apocalypse --- famine, pestilence, war, and death" --- in Ethiopia, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Mozambique --- devastating people and moving relentlessly toward "two primary targets" --- the oil fields of the Middle East (the lifeline of the Western Alliance), and the isthmus of Panama, which separates North and South America.

No one welcomed signs of Soviet liberalization more than Bill Casey. But glasnost has not come to Afghanistan, Nicaragua or to Soviet Jews.

These people will one day be free from force, Casey believed, because "the pendulum of history is slowly but surely swinging away from Soviet Marxism ... toward democracy and free market economics."

"The Soviet Union may have a proven recipe for subversion and an undiluted willingness to use raw power to shore up its

unpopular clients, but we in the West have an infinitely more powerful weapon --- the promise of long-term prosperity."

"I am high on the free market," Casey told the Washington Post, and many others. Freedom, he believed, worked for him, for us, and for every people who tried it. It is the alternative and the antidote to tyranny, stagnation, and starvation.

In addition to doing what we can to support indigenous freedom fighters, Casey wrote, we need to bring to bear the West's technological ingenuity, entrepreneurial talents, and free markets on the core problems of development and "piece by piece, technique by technique, country by country" eliminate hunger and raise Third World living standards.

"All we have to do is muster the courage and resolve to use our enormous advantages." He had the courage and resolve. He could barely stand it when we missed an opportunity to protect the United States and promote freedom. Bill Casey was a man of passionate convictions, willing to work long hours, make hard decisions, and endure criticism.

He dared to take a big step where one was required, understanding, like David Lloyd George, that you can't cross a chasm with two small jumps. He did not take to unnecessary risks, and he was not daunted by difficulties or difficult

people. He worried quite a lot about America's growing incapacity to act with discretion and dispatch.

Most of all, Bill Casey had a passionate commitment to preserving the independence and freedom of the United States --- from terrorists, nuclear blackmail and isolation. Because he saw them as directly relevant to American security, developing a defense against incoming nuclear missiles and supporting Nicaraguan freedom fighters had special priority for him. There is no question about it. But they had no more priority than law.

Bill Casey was one smart lawyer who understood politics and history as well. He was a savvy, sometimes sassy, always feisty guy --- and a fighter.

Some mean spirited, ill informed comments have been written and spoken in the last days, reminding us as Marcus Aurelius said, "There is no man so fortunate that there shall not be by him when he is dying some who are pleased with what is going to happen."

These unpleasant comments would not have overly disturbed our friend, "The CIA is (not) the place for tender egos and shriveling violets." He told a university audience last fall, "The debates and clashes of ideas can get rough."

Casey could take the guff required to support unpopular ideas --- like the free market, and controversial causes --- like the contras --- because he had studied the evidence and thought through his positions.

He could take the guff and not give up because he had built his life on solid foundations.

Plato and St. Augustine tell us one knows a man by what he loves. We know Bill Casey through his loves --- of Sophia, Bernadette, his church, his country, his books, his freedom.

Bill Casey's inspiration was Greek in the cultivation of all his capacities, Roman in his love of law, Christian in his love of God and the Church, American in his love of freedom.

He lived his life to the hilt and left it in the spirit of the man who said, "I am perfectly resigned. I am surrounded by my family. I have served my country. I have reliance upon God, and am not afraid of the Devil."

Bill Casey, with his intelligence, courage, wit and zest, contributed enormously to his family, his country, his President, and his friends.

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